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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SEP 20 2004
TRADEMARK OFFICE*

In re Application of:)
TETSUYO OHASHI) : Examiner: L. Tran
Appln. No.: 10/786,062) : Group Art Unit: 2853
Filed: February 26, 2004) :
For: INK JET RECORDING APPARATUS)
AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING : September 20, 2004
INK JET RECORDING) (Monday)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed August 18, 2004.

The Examiner has stated that the inventions of Group I (Claims 9-15) and Group II (Claims 15-21) are patentably distinct from each other for being unrelated. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the various groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other group. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results

may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicant, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group II, namely Claims 15-19.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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